

Bulletin

DECEMBER 4th, 1947

KISLEV 21, 5708

Dr. M. Arzt Speaker Friday, Dec. 5th

Dr. Max Arzt will be the guest preacher at the Sabbath evening service on Friday, December 5th. The third speaker in the Adult Committee's Friday Evening Lecture Series will speak on the subject: "*Hanukkah's Undimmed Lights*".

Dr. Arzt is at present a member of the faculty at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he holds the position of Director of Field Service and Associate Professor of Practical Theology. Prior to coming to the Seminary in 1939, he had been rabbi of congregations in Stamford, Connecticut, and Scranton, Pennsylvania. Dr. Arzt is a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America and is an active member of the United Synagogue of America.

The speaker of the evening has travelled extensively in Europe and Palestine, and is a well known lecturer in the Jewish community of the United States.

As a result of long study and investigation, Dr. Arzt has arrived at the following position regarding *Hanukkah*. It is more than the recollection of the heroism manifested by our forebears twenty-one centuries ago. With the triumph of the *Maccabees*, Judaism ceased to be a tribal cult and embarked on its career as a world religion. From that time on, it was thought that *Israel* must remain *Israel*, among the nations, for the sake of humanity in order to be the

(Continued on Page 4)

Synagogue Members Invited to Hanukkah Fete Featuring "Eternal Light" on December 14th

The Annual *Hanukkah* celebration, sponsored by the Sisterhood, for which plans have been completed, will be held on Sunday evening, December 14th, at 8:30 p.m. This joyous and colorful party, to take place in the Vestry, will observe all the traditional *Hanukkah* customs. It is being given for all members of the Park Avenue

Synagogue and their immediate families. All members will receive tickets, since admission will be by ticket only.

An exciting and provocative "Eternal Light" program will take place in the Synagogue proper. The dramatization will again be under the able direction of Mrs. Alexander J. Ostriker. It promises to be on the same high calibre as was enjoyed by the membership last year. "The Eternal Light" program is presented on Sunday mornings over the National Broadcasting Company Network, under the sponsorship of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Members of the Synagogue will do the characterizations presenting Milton Wishengrad's script "The Parable of Reb Yisroel." The musical portion of the presentation with Mr. Isidore Geller at the organ and the choir will be prepared by Cantor David J. Putterman.

Mrs. Milton M. Sivek, Chairman of the Affair, will be assisted by Mrs. Laurence Bangser, Mrs. Sidney Brandt, Mrs. Leslie Cohen, Mrs. Jack Hoexter, Mrs. Robert Hoffman, Mrs. Julian Kunmin, Mrs. Lester Metzger, Mrs. Sidney Mishkin, and Mrs. Sidney Silberman.

A social hour and refreshments, in the gaily decorated Vestry, will follow "The Eternal Light" program. The Refreshment Committee is comprised of Mrs. Samuel Gellert, Chairman; Mrs. Joseph Druss, Mrs. Adolph Luebeck, Mrs. Marvin Spiegel and Mrs. Maurice Manheimer.

Hanukkah marks the beginning of SOS Week, and it is sincerely hoped that everyone who comes to the party will bring at least one can of food to send overseas.

Plan to spend Sunday evening, December 14th, at the Synagogue for a meaningful and happy *Hanukkah*.

'Maccabees and Puritans' Rabbi Steinberg's Topic

The special *Hanukkah* service and sermon will take place on Friday evening, December 12th, at 8:30 p.m., Rabbi Milton Steinberg will deliver the sermon on the subject, "Maccabees and Puritans".

The sermon is based on the startling analogy which exists between the Maccabees and the Puritans. Both groups fought for religious freedom—their own—and both groups later denied it to others: the Maccabees against the disapproval of the Scribes and Sages; the Puritans in unchallenged self-righteousness.

What is it in religion which makes it so inclined towards intolerance? Can this evil tendency be corrected? If so, how?

Rabbi Steinberg will describe the historical parallel and prescribe a radical, new course which organized religion must follow if it is to rise above ancient vices.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve Friday, December 5th, 8:30 p.m.
Rabbi Max Arzt will preach on "*Hanukkah's Undimmed Lights*"

Sabbath Eve Friday, December 12th, 8:30 p.m.
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on "*Maccabees and Puritans*"
Must Religious Zeal Always Become Religious Intolerance?

Sabbath Morning Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.
Bachurim Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 11:00 a.m.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN

is published bi-weekly from
September to June by

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

50 East 87th Street, New York 28, N. Y.
Tel. SAcramento 2-8765

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Contributors

Vol. 2

No. 5

From the Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

OUR latest High Holyday Services have by now come to seem to me—and no doubt to all of us—remote, as though they belonged not to this, but to some more distant year. And yet before they pass from memory altogether or cease to be distinguishable in time, I should like to share with the members of the congregation some of my most gratifying observations concerning them.

Comment on the service in the Vestry, its comfort, dignity and meaningfulness, was uniformly enthusiastic, and much admiration has been expressed on the split-second coordination between the two portions of the congregations.

We have further genuine cause for mutual congratulations in the fact that the use of the Vestry made it possible for our congregation to accommodate almost four hundred persons more than in any previous year, and many of these the children of our members or young people raised in our midst who have heretofore been debarred from attending High Holyday worship in the company of their parents and in the Synagogue which they regarded as their spiritual home.

* * *

From a number of the new members I have received letters of comment concerning our mode of worship with which many of them were this year having their first experience.

These comments, with one exception ardently favorable, fall into two groups. To the one side are the observations of

persons who came to us from the Reformist left. On the other side are those who joined us from the Orthodox right.

Typical of the former category is one woman who in our services made her initial contact with more traditional modes of worship, musical rendition and thought than those to which she had been accustomed all her life.

"It was," she observed, "like thawing out at a fire after being out too long in the cold."

To the opposite purport is the letter of a young man, raised in rigid Orthodoxy to which he had come to respond with "complete mental rebellion against formal worship, a turning away from ancient shibboleths and a derisive contempt for Judaism as a whole."

"I cannot begin to tell you," he wrote to me. "of the gratification that was mine (on *Kol Nidre* night) . . . My pleasure at being able to follow a service at all times . . . The clear explanations of what we were doing and why . . . The sheer beauty of it . . ."

"Our Temple," he concludes, "has effectively connected for me my own Orthodoxy with my present day requirements. There is no complete breaking with the past; instead it is preserved for all to hear, the ancient glory of religious Israel couched in contemporary prose . . . I wonder too if you realize how successful the marriage really is of ancient ritual and modern need?"

Given reactions such as these, we on the pulpit have reason to take courage and hope that we may after all be on the right course in our quest for such a pattern of Jewish living and self-expression as shall be traditional and modern at the same time.

* * *

The perfect *Hanukkah* gift, for your friends, relatives and yourself is available in The Shoken Library (published by Shoken Books, 342 Madison Avenue). This is a series of little volumes of Jewish interest, exquisitely printed and of permanent worth. If it is a more expensive gift you wish to present, I suggest all the eight titles which have appeared to date. If, on the other hand, you belong to that great majority which must calculate costs and stretch limited budgets to cover many obligations, then one or two of the books will serve not only your purse but your purpose also. Selling for \$1.50 each these are the best value for the money now on the literary

Sisterhood Speaks

On Tuesday afternoon, December 9th, the Membership Committee of Sisterhood, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Irma Heller, will hold a Tea for their prospective members at the home of Mrs. Irving Shapiro. A very fine turnout is hoped for, as Sisterhood is endeavoring to include in its membership every woman in the Synagogue.

On November 18th, the Sisterhood presented the second lecture in the series "The Road to Human Dignity". The guest speaker was Mr. Itzhak Chizik who is in this country on a mission for Palestine. Mr. Chizik's timely topic was "Palestine—Behind the Scenes".

Once again a large and appreciative audience attended Mr. Chizik's interesting lecture. This series of lectures which the Program Committee has arranged has proven to be of great interest and the Sisterhood cordially invites the women of the Synagogue to attend all future lectures of the series which will be announced in forthcoming BULLETIN issues.

The Sisterhood asks that all ladies try to bring clothes or canned food for the S.O.S. Drive and leave articles at all times in the lobby of the Synagogue. Simply mark bundles "For S.O.S. Drive".

The Red Cross Sewing Group is still doing an important job. If any lady would like to join this worthwhile circle, please contact Mrs. Esther Friedman through the Synagogue office.

The Sisterhood also asks that its members remember the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, and respond generously to its needs when approached in the interests of this great cause.

market both as to format and content.

Should you be so unfortunate as to be compelled to confine your purchases to single items, make your choice between *The Language of Faith* and *Ten Rungs*. The former, an anthology of Jewish prayer, is a little masterpiece of typography; translation and sentiment. The latter is a heartwarming, spirit lifting collection of *Hasidic* epigrams and parables, compiled by Martin Buber. Each is worth not only its trivial price, but, spiritually regarded, a King's ransom.

— MILTON STEINBERG

Youth Clubs Organized: Coterie Dance Dec. 6th

The Coterie, one of the oldest and most successful clubs in the past, is functioning again for the sixteen to nineteen years olds under the leadership of Leonard Schoffer. They have planned a *Hanukkah* dance to take place in the Vestry on Saturday evening, December 6th, at 8 o'clock. All young people in this age group are urged to attend for an evening of good fun and fellowship.

Rabbi Milton Arfa, who has recently assumed several administrative duties at the Synagogue, has announced the club program for the junior members of the congregation.

Five Clubs Active

At present, there are five clubs functioning actively. For the younger children there are the "Roses of the Sharon", comprising eight and nine year old girls under the guidance of Miss Yvette Davis and a junior club, as yet unnamed, for eight to ten year old boys directed by Miss Sara Gottlieb. The nine to eleven year old girls aided by Miss Hilda Margulies meet as the "Queen Esther" club.

For the older children, the "Rayouth Club" has been reorganized under the joint leadership of two newcomers, Mr. Irving Kessler and Miss Varda Karni. This group, consisting of both boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, held its first function of the season, a barn dance, on November 9th.

To accomodate those boys and girls who are in the twelve to thirteen year class a new unit is being formed under the supervision of Miss Marcia Tobin.

Births

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Helman on the birth of their daughter, Denice Barbara.

Bar Mitzvah

Best wishes to Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell S. Fisher, on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Franklin M., on December 13th.

Engagement

The Synagogue extends felicitations to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Shiers on the engagement of their son, Michael, to Miss Arlene Rosen.

For Your Information

The Annual Convention of The Metropolitan Council of the United Synagogue was held on Sunday, November 16th, at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Hon. Bernard Botein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Synagogue, after serving as President of the Council for two years was elevated to the post of Honorary President. Tribute to Judge Botein's work was paid by Mr. Samuel Rothstein, President of the United Synagogue at the dinner which followed the afternoon session. Mr. I. B. Oseas after completion of his term as Secretary was elected Vice-President from Manhattan. At the panel discussion held during the convention, Dudley L. Greenstein was discussion leader for the topic, "How Can the Synagogue Serve Its Youth?"

All young married couples who are interested in participating in a discussion group are urged to contact Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer at the Synagogue.

Mrs. Joseph Hamerman having served for four years as President of the Lower New York State Region of Hadassah is now Chairman of the American Affairs Committee of National Hadassah.

The enthusiastic response by the public to Rabbi Steinberg's new book, "Basic Judaism" has led to a third printing of the current edition.

Harold H. Levin, your Adult Education chairman, has recently been named to the Board of Directors of the YMHA.

Anniversary

Our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Saul Horowitz who will celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on December 12th.

Deaths

The Synagogue extends condolences to Dr. Harry Wechsler on the death of his brother, Edward I. Wechsler; to Mrs. Anna Rosenbusch and Mrs. Mollie Rosenbusch on the death of their sister, Frieda Israel.

Sum-Committees Chosen By School Board

The following Sub-Committees of the School Board for the School Year 1947-48 have been appointed:

School Budget and Accounting System: Mr. Milton Selig, Chairman; Parents' Association: Mrs. Harriet Howe, Chairman; Curriculum: Mrs. Hilda Oseas, Chairman; School Newspaper and School Board Publicity: Mrs. Abram Blau, Chairman; The Clubs: Mrs. Helen Godwin, Chairman; Mrs. Blanche Miller, Mrs. S. Wimpfheimer, Mrs. Ruth Brodsky, Dr. Mabel C. Stovin; Scholarships: Mrs. Blanche Miller, Chairman, Mr. Milton Selig, Mr. Harry Cohen, Mr. I. E. Gevirtz; The Tutorial System: Dr. Theodore Kaplan, Chairman, Mrs. Hilda Oseas, Mr. Archie I. Thurman, Mrs. Helen Godwin, Mrs. S. Wimpfheimer, Mr. Jacob Boorstein, Mrs. Ida Black, Mr. I. E. Gevirtz; The Library and Recordings of Liturgical Music: Mrs. S. Wimpfheimer, Chairman; School Properties, Inventory, etc.: Jacob Boorstein, Chairman; Bas Mitzvah and Confirmation Ceremonials: Mrs. Ruth Brodsky, Chairman, Dr. Theodore Kaplan, Mr. Jacob Boorstein, Mr. Harry Cohen, Dr. Mabel C. Stovin, Mrs. Helen Godwin; School Psychologist: Mrs. Mathilda W. Cohen; School Board-Faculty Annual Dinner: Mrs. Helen Godwin, Chairman; Home Observance Leaflets: Mr. A. I. Thurman, Chairman.

Rabbi Drazin's Lecture Postponed to Dec. 15th

Rabbi William Drazin, whose lecture on Monday evening, November 24th was cancelled because of illness, will deliver it instead on December 15th in the Vestry, in place of the symposium originally scheduled for that date. As previously announced Rabbi Drazin's topic will be "What's New in Orthodox Judaism?"

The next meeting of the Adult Education Committee will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, 415 Central Park West, on Monday evening, December 8th.

School Highlights

The Confirmation Class for this season has been organized, and plans are being made for the ceremony which will take place next June 13th. A special Hebrew Class has been arranged for those prospective confirmants who have not fulfilled the Hebrew language requirement. Plans are under way for the social events in connection with Confirmation, and a special Committee has been designated by the School Board to carry out the program.

Registration in the Religious School is now 238, the exact figure reached in last year's enrollment. Week-day session students number more than 90, almost double the 1946-47 total.

The Arts and Crafts group of the Religious School, under the supervision of their faculty advisors, Mr. Schoffman and Mr. Gilbert, are busily engaged in preparing exhibits honoring Jewish books and authors.

School Newspaper Named

The Synagogue will soon boast of a new journal, the newspaper of the Religious School. The Journalism Club announces that it will go to press shortly, the first issue appearing on November 30th. First prize in the Name contest was won by Karen Kudin, and the paper will henceforth be known as the Sunday School Courier. The faculty advisor is Mr. Daniel Hoffman.

Rehearsals for the *Hanukkah* entertainment have begun. In addition to the musical and dramatic program a dance group is being trained by a new addition to the faculty, Miss Salome Bat-Ari.

BOOKS FOR GIFTS

Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, chairman of the Library Committee of the Parents' Association, announces that the books listed below are available and recommended as *Hanukkah* gifts for children and adults of the Congregation. They may be ordered expeditiously by filling out an order and mailing it with a check to Mrs. Wimpfheimer, 1225 Park Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

It was mentioned in a previous column of School Highlights that this method of ordering books by members of the Congregation will permit the School to enhance its own library at the same time.

Books for Adults

BASIC JUDAISM, Milton Steinberg.....	\$2.50
WITH AN H ON MY DOG TAG, Morris Kertzer	2.75
THE OLD COUNTRY, Sholom Aleichem...	3.00
THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND TO PALESTINE, I. F. Stone.....	2.50
PEACE OF MIND, Joshua Loth Liebman...	2.50
PICTURE BOOK OF PALESTINE.....	5.00
THE WISE MEN OF HELM, Solomon Simon	2.50
FIGHTING ANGEL: HENRIETTA SZOLD, Elma Levinger	2.50
BEHIND THE SILKEN CURTAIN, Bartley C. Crum	3.00
THIEVES IN THE NIGHT, Arthur Koestler.	2.75

Books for Children

HAPPY HANUKKAH (3-6 years).....	\$.50
THE MAGIC RING, Hymin E. Goldin (8-10 years)	2.00
DOWN HOLIDAY LANE, Rose W. Golub (5-9 years)	1.50
PICTURE BOOK OF PALESTINE, Ethel Smither (5-9 years)	1.00
THE GOLDEN DOOR, Elma Levinger (12 years)	2.50
NOAH'S ARK, <i>Animated</i> (4-6 years).....	1.00
LITTLE NEW ANGEL, Sadie Weilerstein (6-8 years)	2.50
THE ALEPH BET STORY BOOK, Deborah Pessin (8 years)	1.50
ONE GOD, Florence M. Fitch (8 years up—all ages)	2.00
SINGING WAY, Sadie Rose Weilerstein (6-8 years)	2.00

Will You Attend?

Saturday, December 6th—8:00 p.m.—
Coterie Dance, Vestry.

Monday, December 8th—8:30 p.m.—
Committee on Adult Education meeting, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hammerman, 415 Central Park West.

Tuesday, December 9th—2:30 p.m.—
Sisterhood Tea for new members at the home of Mrs. Irving Shapiro, 1100 Park Avenue.

Sunday, December 14th—8:30 p.m.—
Sisterhood *Hanukkah* Party, Vestry.

Monday, December 15th—8:30 p.m.—
Rabbi William Drazin "What's New in Orthodox Judaism", Vestry.

Tuesday, December 16th—8:30 p.m.—
Young Marrieds "B" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Selig, 170 West 73 Street.

Wednesday, December 17th—8:30 p.m.—
—"Lawyer's" Home Study Group at the home of Mr. Leon Finley, 1010 Fifth Avenue.

Wednesday, December 17th—8:30 p.m.—
Young Marrieds "A" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Shapiro, 1100 Park Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Blumstein will serve as host.

Dr. M. Arzt Speaking

(Continued from Page 1)

living custodian and exemplar of momentous spiritual truths and teachings.

The world is sorely in need of that ethical emphasis which is Judaism's magnificent obsession, feels Dr. Arzt. "The people of *Torah* can teach men how to bring the tablets of the law from the mountain of aspiration down to the valley of decision and the plain of realization."

The law prescribes that the *Hanukkah* lights should be placed on the window-sill nearest the public thoroughfare. The time has come, says Dr. Arzt's message, for Judaism to reveal to a sore beset humanity its glowing message of moral fervor, applied idealism, and universal brotherhood.

Following the service on *Oneg Shabbat* will be held in the Vestry to give all an opportunity to meet and discuss the topic with Dr. Arzt.

THE SISTERHOOD

Invites Members and Their Immediate Families

TO A

HANUKKAH PARTY

at THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

on Sunday Evening, December 14th, at 8:30 o'clock

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY

BRING A CAN OF FOOD FOR THE SOS DRIVE

I M P O R T A N T

Due to the extraordinary news of the United Nations decision on Palestine, a Special Service of prayer and music has been arranged for Friday Evening, December 5th, at 8:30 P. M.

Instead of Rabbi Max Arzt, we have been fortunate to secure

M O S H E S H E R T O K

Chief Political advisor of the Jewish Agency who directed our efforts during all the U. N. sessions.

He knows the inside story.

Come and rejoice with us.

